

being 93.1 x 55.4 mm and 96.1 x 51.4 mm, and incubation had barely started. The third group, the abandoned one, was on the north-eastern end of the island. It covered an area of about half a hectare and contained a large number of addled eggs and dead young, varying from recently hatched nestlings to larger, feathered young about five weeks old. Most of the eggs and dead young were blown against clumps of *Spinifex* and small bushes, undoubtedly by the strong winds of Cyclone "Trixie". It would appear that after the cyclone the birds re-nested as the two groups just mentioned, but in lesser strength. No dead adults were found on the island.

Lesser Frigate-bird, *Fregata ariel*. One lone bird was flying over the water at the southern end of the island.

Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia*. Ten birds were flying together along the shore. No nesting was taking place, though an abandoned egg, partly buried in the sand, was found just above high water mark. It was collected and found to be fresh.

Eastern Curlew, *Numenius madagascariensis*. Two birds were feeding on the tidal flats.

White-breasted Sea-Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. A pair was soaring over the island. A nest, not in use, was found on the eastern side. The normal nesting period, at North-West Cape, is between June and August (Serventy and Whittell, 1976).

Mangrove Kingfisher, *Halcyon chloris*. One pair were seen perched on a discarded 44-gallon drum partly buried in the sand.

Australian Pipit, *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Two pairs were seen amongst short vegetation.

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NOTES ON KIMBERLEY BIRDS

By W. H. BUTLER, Wanneroo

In winter and spring 1975 I spent three months in the Kimberley Division collecting and observing birds for Dr. G. M. Storr (Western Australian Museum) who is preparing a checklist of the birds of the Kimberleys. My field work was financed by an Australian Biological Resources Study grant to Dr. Storr who directed the field activities.

The first half of the work was carried out in the far south-east of the Division, especially in the arid Gardiner and Denison Ranges, respectively at Granny Soak (19° 07' S, 128° 53' E) and Palm Spring

(19° 20' S, 128° 20' E). The second half of the work was carried out in the northern half of the Yampi Peninsula, including Kimbolton Spring (16° 38' S, 123° 43' E) and Port Osborne (16° 34' S, 123° 38' E). Listed below are some of the more interesting records.

White Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*). On September 7 a brownish immature bird was collected in mangroves at Port Osborne. On the previous day an all-white bird was seen in the same mangroves. These are the westernmost records of this rare hawk. Gut content was a partly digested snake.

Flock Pigeon (*Histriophaps histrionica*). Relatively small flocks (up to 25 birds) were seen in flight over the Gardiner and Denison Ranges. In the much more suitable country around Sturt Creek HS (19° 10' S, 128° 10' E) a flock of more than a thousand birds was observed in early July.

White-quilled Rock-pigeon (*Petrophassa albipennis*). The dark West Kimberley race was locally common on the Yampi Peninsula on quartzite ridges and in sandstone country. A nest and two heavily incubated eggs were found near Kimbolton Spring on September 2.

Partridge Pigeon (*Geophaps smithii*). The West Kimberley race, *G. s. blaauwi*, characterized by yellow orbital skin, was common around Kimbolton Spring, the south-westernmost locality known for this bird.

Major Mitchell Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*). On September 21 I saw a pair beside the Great Northern Highway at 19 km south-west of the turnoff into Thangoo HS (Roebuck Bay). The locality (18° 20' S, 122° 12' E) is the first for this cockatoo from west of Geegully Creek (160 km to the east).

Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*). Records of this species from the Gardiner and Denison Ranges are the first for the Kimberley Division. Specimens were collected at Granny Soak and Palm Spring.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*). An adult male collected at Palm Spring on June 29 is the first record of the southern race, *P. s. strigoides*, for the Kimberley Division; it matches well with Pilbara specimens. Further north in the Kimberleys the Tawny Frogmouth is represented by the smaller, paler and more delicately patterned *P. s. phalaenoides*.

Brown-breasted Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla woodwardi*). Specimens collected among granite boulders near the Great Northern Highway at 4 km E of the Laura River crossing (18° 34' S, 127° 15' E) and on quartzite ridges at Kimbolton Spring are respectively the southernmost and westernmost records of this superb songster.

Large-billed Warbler (*Gerygone magnirostris*). Three specimens collected in the mangroves at Port Osborne extend the known range of this species for 200 km to the south-west. The previous south-western limit was St. George Basin (Johnstone, 1975).

Spiny-checked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*). This bird, previously unknown in the Kimberley Division, was collected at three localities: Palm Spring (Denison Range), near Sturt Creek HS (19° 10' S, 128° 10' E) and south of Lake Betty (19° 35' S, 126° 22' E). Other desert honeyeaters, rarely seen in the Kimberleys, were common in the Gardiner and Denison Ranges, namely the Pied, Black and White-fronted (respectively *Certhionyx variegatus*, *C. niger* and *Phylidonyris albigrons*).

Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*). This bird was moderately common in riverine forests around Kimbolton Spring, which is the westernmost locality for the Kimberley-Northern Territory race, *C. t. argenteus*, the so-called Silver-backed Butcher-bird.

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